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### **REMARKS**

The Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview conducted on December 13, 2004. As discussed during the interview, herewith is the Applicants' substitute response to the non-final Office Action mailed on December 20, 2002. This response is intended as a full and complete response to the non-final Office Action mailed on December 20, 2002. In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 1-17 are pending and rejected. By this response, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-17 and added new claims 18-32. The Applicants submit that new claims 18-32 are directed to subject matter supported by the application as filed.

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are indefinite, drawn to non-statutory subject matter, anticipated or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§112, 101, 102 and 103.

It is to be understood that the Applicants, by amending the claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to the Applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, the Applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

### **REJECTIONS**

#### **35 U.S.C. §112**

##### **Claims 1-8**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

In view of the Applicants' cancellation of claims 1-8, the Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

#### **35 U.S.C. §101**

##### **Claim 9**

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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In view of the Applicants' cancellation of claim 9, the Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

**35 U.S.C. §102**

**Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-17**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bruce Schneier, Applied Cryptography, Second Edition, John Wiley & Sons Pub., Oct. 1995, Section 8.12 Public-Key Key Management, Public Key Certificates, and Section 24.9 ISO Authentication Framework, pp. 574-576.

In view of the Applicants' cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 13-17, the Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

**35 U.S.C. §103**

**Claims 3 and 12**

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier as applied to claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Official Notice.

In view of the Applicants' cancellation of claims 3 and 1, the Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, the Applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application are indefinite, drawn to non-statutory subject matter, anticipated or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§112, 101, 102 and 103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the holding of abandonment of this application and reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

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Respectfully submitted,

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